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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2187
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7590
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 6405
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 1878
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 7535
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 3579
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 2061
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFIISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 004235

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/28/2017

TAGS: PGOV PK
SUBJECT: ISLAMABAD POLICE CHIEF SUSPENDED ON SUPREME COURT ORDERS

REF: ISLAMABAD 4209

Classified By: A/DCM Candace Putnam, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

¶11. (C) Responding to the violence used to quell lawyers' protests in Islamabad September 29, the Supreme Court ordered the arrest and suspension of the Islamabad Police Inspector and two of his deputies. GOP Interior Secretary Syed Kamal Shah responded by suspending Islamabad's Police Inspector General Marwat Ali Shah, Police Senior Superintendent Naeem Khan, and Deputy Commissioner Chaudhry Mohammad Ali. An Interior Ministry official privately told Embassy that the suspension was just a "formality." Both PM Aziz and Information Minister Durrani promised investigations over the incident.

¶12. (U) The media provided emotional front-page coverage of the September 29 clashes between police and several hundred lawyers/human rights activists who were protesting the Election Commission's approval of Musharraf's presidential nomination (reftel). The Court noted that several lawyers, as well as journalists covering the event, were injured by televised baton-wielding police, and the bandaged victims appeared today in the Court.

¶13. (C) Comment: Following accusations from opposition and civil society groups that it had caved in to Musharraf by dismissing the cases against him, the Court opted for a public reproach to the GOP over how it handled this demonstration. Rather than challenging the Chief Justice, the GOP agreed to what appears to be a face-saving gesture for the Court. End Summary

PATTERSON